

**Weather Forecast**  
Cloudy, cold today. Fair and continued cold tonight and tomorrow.

Temperatures today—Highest, 32, at 1:30 p.m.; lowest, 24, at 8 a.m. (seasonal low). Yesterday—Highest, 41, at 4 p.m.; lowest, 30, at 11:50 p.m.

Late New York Markets, Page A-19

92d YEAR. No. 36,751.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1944—FORTY PAGES. ★★

# The Evening Star

Guide for Readers	
After Dark	Page 1
Amusements	Page 1
Comics	Page 1
Editorials	Page 1
Editorial Articles	Page 1
Finance	Page 1
Lost and found	Page 1
Obituary	Page 1
Radio	Page 1
Society	Page 1
Sports	Page 1
Woman's Page	Page 1

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## 14-Mile Stretch on Roer River Won by U.S. 1st and 9th Armies; Simpson's Forces Resume Drive

### Yanks Drive Into Duren Suburb; 3d Army Gains

(Map on Page A-18.)

PARIS, Dec. 14.—The American 1st Army of Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges and the 9th Army of Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson have won a 14-mile stretch along the Roer River from Linlich to a point 2,500 yards northwest of Duren, it was announced today at supreme Allied headquarters.

This placed the Americans within 20½ miles of Cologne, their nearest approach, at a point downstream from Duren, through which the river flows north toward the sea.

Twenty miles farther south, other units of the 1st Army moving along both sides of the river near its source overran a fourth hamlet, Kesternich, in an advance of a mile or more.

The 1st and 9th Armies between them were swiftly wiping out the last stubborn German remnants west of the Rhine in a campaign seeking to envelop the Cologne plain with its 21 muddy miles to the Rhine.

### 9th Army Resumes Offensive. Kesternich lies east of previously taken Rollesbroich, Bickert and Simmerath and about 3,000 yards from the Roer.

Ninth Army troops 20 miles to the north spring into action and seized the Inde River town of Vichhofen, 2 miles south of Julich.

For once, the 1st Army had bright, sunny weather which promised help from the air in budging the stubborn Germans from their trenches and bunkers. The 1st Army was on the enemy's side of the Roer headwaters in the area 4 miles southeast of Monshaus, and moving between the Hurtgen and Mouschaut Forests.

Before Duren, Maj. Gen. Robert C. Macdon's 83d Division advanced to the western outskirts of Gurenich, a suburb of Duren and only a few hundred yards from the Roer.

On the central sector of the western front Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's 3d Army, fighting bitter resistance, drove 500 yards ahead at Saarbrücken, widening its wedge in the Siegfried Line, and measured advances in yards in other areas of the German Saar Basin. Nine miles southeast of Saarbrücken, the shell-torn Saar capital, 35th Division troops clung to their foothold inside the Reich at Habkirchen.

In the south the 7th Army of Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch plunged through another section of the Maginot Line northwest of Bitch and 3½ miles from the Saarland's southeast corner. These troops were 12 miles below Zwickbrücken, Palatinian city which has been raked by 7th Army shells.

Gen. Hodges' troops southeast of Monshaus, springboard of the new attack, were wheeling into position for a sweep behind enemy Roer River defenses. The northern wing of this assault thrust toward the river's west bank. Light, medium and fighter bombers lashed fortified positions ahead of the ground troops.

Front Extended to 25 Miles. As these operations extended the active 1st Army front to 25 miles, Schophoven on the west bank of the Roer, midway between besieged Julich and Duren, was cleared over heavy resistance. Other units, almost to the river at Duren, as field dispatches reported German defenses caving in on a 5-mile stretch along the stream south of the city.

In the south the French 1st Army made slow progress north of Colmar in the Vosges Mountain foothills. Concerning the fighting on the 1st Army front, supreme headquarters said the fortified towns of Schophoven, Mariaweller, Derichsweller and Gey had been cleared again of the Germans. They formed a stout defense for Duren on the Roer. All changed hands several times.

First Army operations beyond Mouschaut posed a potential flanking thrust to new German positions east of the Roer, where three new defense lines have been observed between that river and the Eifel, where 8 miles from Cologne and the Rhine.

Difficult Terrain. This headwaters section was the only place where the Americans were across the Roer. The fighting was in the northern spur of the Eifel range, in such difficult terrain that a swing north behind the main Roer River line would be a herculean achievement. Forests abound. Just ahead were three large dams across the Roer, the longest 900 feet at its base.

Two new divisions were in action on the Upper Roer, but they were not identified.

The suspicion increased that the Germans were artificially flooding the Roer through the dam sluices.

One additional man from the District area has been reported killed in this war. See "On the Honor Roll," Page A-2.

(See WESTERN FRONT, Pg. A-18.)

### Toronto Pedestrians Must Signal on Turns

TORONTO, Dec. 14.—Toronto pedestrians now must wait on the right side of the sidewalk and give a hand signal before turning.

Running for a streetcar also is forbidden by the new pedestrian traffic laws passed by the city and approved yesterday by George H. Doucett, Ontario minister of highways.

## Churchill Stands Firm on Policy, Indicates New Talk to Nation Says He Approved Continuing King Victor's Regime Until Military Situation Improved

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—Prime Minister Churchill, under continuing attack over Britain's policy in Greece and Italy, served notice today he was standing firm and might hit back in another address to the nation.

The Prime Minister opened an inconclusive Commons debate with a terse report that British casualties in Greece "since our landing this year" were about 460. He did not make it clear whether these included all casualties in the current fighting in Athens.

Under Laborite cross-questioning about what he had told Count Carlo Sforza concerning King Victor Emmanuel, Mr. Churchill said he had approved a continuance of the Italian King's "regime until the military situation had got into a better condition."

The results were not "unsatisfactory as far as our armies are concerned," the Prime Minister added. Sforza, whom Mr. Churchill pre-

viously described as "not the type of man" Britain wanted to deal with as Italian foreign minister, had said in Rome that the Prime Minister in 1943 brought "strong pressure" on him in behalf of King Victor.

Mr. Churchill said casualties suffered by the Royal Navy, RAF and imperial military forces in Greece up to November 30 were under 300 and "about 160 additional military casualties, of whom 35 were killed, must be added since that date."

Thirty-two planes and eight minor vessels have been lost during this period, he said.

When Laborite Daniel Kirkwood said he had been flooded with telegrams from workers threatening a work stoppage protesting the government's policy in Greece, Mr. Churchill said:

"I could quite believe that Mr. Kirkwood would receive many telegrams from many parts of the country over a matter which causes so much heart searching. I gave a

(See CHURCHILL, Page A-18.)

## Allies Now in Position To Invade Key Nazi Areas, Stimson Says

### Western Front Offensive Has Severely Strained Reich, He Declares

By the Associated Press.

Allied armies on the western front are now in position to "jump off upon most important German industrial regions," Secretary of War Stimson said today.

He qualified this statement, however, with the comment that "these gains should be assessed cautiously."

At a news conference Mr. Stimson summarized the results of the general offensive which began last month as follows:

"It has placed Germany under a terrific strain.

"German casualties for a three-week period are estimated as having been almost 7,000 a day in men killed, seriously wounded or taken prisoner. The figure is no doubt smaller now, but it is obvious that a considerable number of German divisions were badly mauled."

"The Siegfried Line has been partly breached to the Ruhr Valley. We are at grips with the German frontier defenses as we cross the Saar River and press upon the Saar Valley, some of whose lesser industrial plants have already fallen to us."

Mr. Stimson said, in discussing the front-line strength of the Nazis, that "we, too, have sustained many casualties."

Turning to the battle in the Philippines, he said that since the invasion of Leyte started United States forces have wrecked a total of nine enemy reinforcement convoys.

In those attacks, he said, at least 39 enemy transports and 28 warships were lost with more than 20,000 men.

## Senate Fight Looms Over Hurley, Heller

By the Associated Press.

A brisk fight promised to develop in the Senate today over President Roosevelt's first two nominations to the newly created three-man Surplus War Property Board.

Although administration forces said they were confident of confirmation for former Gov. Robert Hurley of Connecticut and Lt. Col. Edward Heller, Republicans served notice that there will be stiff opposition.

Senator Taft, Republican, of Ohio said he regarded the appointments as purely "political" regardless of the qualifications of the two. He conceded, however, that the nominations probably would be approved.

The two were approved yesterday by the Senate Military Affairs Committee on a virtually straight party vote. Senator Johnson, Democrat, of Colorado was the only Democrat who broke over to oppose Mr. Hurley's nomination.

The appointments stirred up a controversy largely because of the connections of Hurley and Col. Heller with the Narragansett Machine Co., Pawtucket, R. I., which had difficulties with Navy orders for equipment.

## Bulletin

**Union Seeks 'Showdown'**  
Officials of the CIO Retail Workers' Union declared here today they are prepared for an "economic showdown" with Montgomery Ward & Co. unless the Government succeeds in its efforts to force the company to comply with War Labor Board directives.

Sam Wolchok, president, said the union was prepared to call strikes in the company's stores in a half a dozen other cities unless a settlement is reached. (Earlier Story on Page A-6.)

## Thailand Raided By Super Forts Based in India

### Japs Report Attack On Rangoon by Eleven B-29s

By the Associated Press.

Super Fortresses from Maj. Gen. Curtis Le May's 20th Bomber Command today flew across the Bay of Bengal to hit military targets in Thailand, now dominated by the Japanese. A War Department announcement described the striking force, which took off from bases in India, as "substantial," but gave no further details.

The blow at Thailand followed a major raid on B-29s yesterday on Nagoya, Japan, where, returning flyers reported, the big Matsudoki aircraft factory was left in flames. The planes took off from bases at Saipan in the Marianas. Examination of photographs, reports from there said, revealed that at least 47 direct hits were made on the factory.

Meanwhile, Japanese broadcasts reported that 11 Super Fortresses today raided the port of Rangoon in Southwest Burma at 1 p.m. and a single B-29 appeared over Tokyo at 3 a.m., but fled "without accomplishing anything."

The Japs said five of the big planes were shot down over Rangoon by anti-aircraft "within a few seconds," and that the others were driven off, preventing damage to ground installations. It was quite possible that the B-29s were a part of the force which raided Thailand, adjoining Burma.

Thailand hit before. "Thailand last hit by the big bombers on November 27. The rail center of Bangkok, heart of the enemy rail system radiating to Singapore, Burma and Indo-China, was struck with heavy loads of demolition bombs. All planes returned."

Super Fortresses of the 20th Bomber Command first attacked the Thailand port early last June. At the same time, the Army Air Forces raised the possibility that the aerial pincers clamped on the Japanese from east and west may be implemented by B-29 blows from Aleutian bases.

An air force spokesman said existing Aleutian bases west of Umnak can accommodate "the largest aircraft we have." Umnak is about 2,000 miles from Japan. The longest reported flight of B-29s to date was a 3,000-mile round trip.

One B-29 which was over Nagoya yesterday, commanded by Capt. Thomas Kuenning, New Bremen, Ohio, obtained pictures showing 24 hits upon the great rambling plant. There were four or four tall, wispy columns of smoke, but most impressive were the geyserlike multiple bomb spouts, looking almost like orderly rows of Lombardy poplars, punctuating the factory area.

It was explained that most of the bomb damage was from the blasts rather than from the fires.

Fires Set in Suburbs. The pictures also showed that other planes had released their bombs too early and had set fires in the suburbs and that a number of bombs had dropped harmlessly in rice paddies.

However, the general impression of the pictures is that accuracy was achieved in laying most of the bombs in a half-mile pattern upon the aircraft factory, from an altitude of 5 or 6 miles (26,000 to 31,000 feet).

Domel, the Japanese news agency, broadcast claim today that two American Super Fortresses were "definitely shot down" and eight others "heavily crippled" in yesterday's raid on Honshu, main island of Japan.

American reports said early indications were that none of the B-29s was lost over the target.

## Five More Jap Admirals Reported Killed

By the Associated Press.

MELBOURNE, Dec. 14.—Deaths of five more Japanese admirals was announced by Domel, Japanese news agency, in a broadcast recorded today by the Australian Department of Information.

"A considerable part of this capital is on the territory of Argentina. To this reservoir, through secret channels, from Spain, flow money and materials representing the embryo of the new German war machine. To Argentina have rushed a crowd of German agents who are now creating a peculiar storage place for German capital and secret military inventions in the Western Hemisphere."

"Characteristic in this respect are the lately intensified reactionary measures taken by the Argentine government, in particular its attempts to restrict the activities of trade unions."

## Nazis Declared Using Argentina And Spain in Third War Plans

By the Associated Press.

The Soviet Embassy today published charges that Germany was preparing for a third world war with Spain and Argentina "chosen for preservation of the Hitlerite reserves."

The Embassy Bulletin carried an article from Trud, organ of the Soviet trade unions, urging strong measures to "avert fresh German aggression."

"Spain is the storehouse and portage for German capital which is now organizing abroad the industrial place d'armes of Fascist aggression."

Statistics Discouraging. The hearing went into its second day after the first produced little more than a mass of discouraging statistics.

Their original enthusiasm for the inquiry somewhat dampened by testimony that there will be even fewer packs for civilians next year, the Senators turned to three Government agencies in the hope of uncovering something cheerful to report.

The group called in officials of the War Manpower Commission, the War Food Administration and the Office of Price Administration with the hope of winning their support for three propositions.

Three Proposals Studied. (1) The possible classification of the cigarette manufacturing industry as an essential one entitled to a better share of the manpower necessary to increase production.

(2) A War Food Administration order calling for greater production of long leaf tobacco.

(3) A revision of wholesale price regulations to permit better distribution of available stocks to retail dealers.

Testimony was heard yesterday that wholesalers, who normally sell to some retailers at discount prices, are selling their cigarettes to retailers whom they can charge a higher price. Wholesale dealers are trying to get a standard price fixed for all retailers.

Yesterday's parade of Army and industry witnesses disclosed no skullduggery. The shortage was attributed to increased shipments to overseas, civilian demand increasing at the rate of 15 per cent and hoarding by individuals at home.

## FTC Is Checking Chicago Cigarette Wholesalers

CHICAGO, Dec. 14 (P)—Federal Trade Commission employees under the direction of William F. Dinnen, regional supervisor, yesterday began checking records of cigarette wholesalers and distributors in the Chicago area in a cigarette shortage inquiry.

James McKeag, who is directly in charge of the drive, said the investigation would take 10 days. He indicated it may develop into an examination of witnesses.

Findings will be reported to the commission's Washington office for comparison with results obtained from similar inquiries conducted in other cities.

The commission, Federal officials said, has authority to make an investigation under the Patman-Robinson Act, which forbids price discrimination and unfair practices in interstate commerce, and the Sherman antitrust law.

## Huge Addition Planned For Rockefeller Center

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The Herald Tribune says a group of new skyscrapers, extending Rockefeller Center an entire block to the north, will be constructed as soon as war restrictions ease, at a cost of \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000.



## Tobacco Leaf Scarcity 562,368 U. S. War Casualties Blamed for Shortage In All Branches Reported

Army Losses in All Areas Total 483,957, With 78,411 Announced by Navy

### Head of Reynolds Firm Tells Senators He Walks Miles to Find 'Smoke'

By the Associated Press.

One of the country's leading cigarette manufacturers said today a leaf tobacco shortage prevents an increase in his production.

S. Clay Williams, board chairman of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., told the Senate War Investigating Committee that 25 per cent more cigarettes could be made in his plants if aged tobacco were available.

He added that he has had his own problems as a cigarette user as well as maker. For instance, he said, he sometimes has to walk many miles to buy a package of his own brand.

"For 25 years," he told the committee, "I have been committed to walk a mile for a Camel. Lately I have lifted that limitation. That slogan should be revised."

He admitted, though, that he had the advantage of being able to pick up a package at the plant when he is there.

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## Land Office Ready to Handle Homestead Claims on Moon

By the Associated Press.

The land rush may be some time off, but the Interior Department is all set with advice on how to file claims on the moon.

From Glen Ellyn, Ill., and specifically from R. J. Farnsworth, president of the United States Rocket Society, Inc., came this query:

"Many of our members write in and ask us how they go about filing the claim to land on the moon. As strange as this may seem to you, it may be a reality within a generation; consequently, we would appreciate either telling us how this is done or advising us to whom to direct our inquiries."

Demonstrating that the department's Land Office has its ear to the ground, its nose to the wind and its mind on the future, Commissioner Fred W. Johnson replied:

"New lands which may be designated as public domain under the sovereignty of the United States are subject to the jurisdiction of the General Land Office. Consequently, those portions of the moon which may become public domain are susceptible of acquisition under the more than 5,000 public land laws administered by this office, relating to mineral developments, homesteaded, grazing or other types of land use."

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## Six Steffinius Aides Approved By Senators

### Tie Vote on MacLeish Broken as Guffey Switches Over

BULLETIN.

After the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had adjourned, Senator Guffey of Pennsylvania called Chairman Connally and changed his vote on the MacLeish nomination to the affirmative, so that Mr. MacLeish was reported favorably by a vote of 11 to 9. Three absent Senators are still to be heard from.

By the Associated Press.

James C. Dunn was reported subjected to an exhaustive grilling on administration foreign policy today by Senators inquiring into six State Department appointments.

Senator Clark, Democrat, of Missouri, who left a closed door meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Senator Johnson, Republican, of California had questioned Mr. Dunn closely about policies of the State Department.

Mr. Dunn, long a State Department official, was nominated for Assistant Secretary of State.

Senator Clark told reporters he "could not make heads nor tails" of a report from Claude Bowers, former Ambassador to Spain, which was discussed in secret session by Senator Guffey, Democrat, of Pennsylvania.

Rockefeller to Be Recalled. Senator Guffey previously referred to the document in question as a favorable report on the anti-Franco republican government at the time of the Spanish Civil War. He said that never reached the President or the Secretary of State.

Secretary of State Steffinius was present for the hearing, as was Nelson Rockefeller, Assistant Secretary of State, who was to be questioned later.

Chairman Connally was pressing for early action on the nominations. Besides Mr. Dunn and Mr. Rockefeller, the committee also was to be under Secretary and Archibald MacLeish, Will L. Clayton and Brig. Gen. Julius C. Holmes to be Assistant Secretaries.

The committee wound up two days of public hearings yesterday with questioning of Mr. Clayton and Mr. MacLeish.

No Move to Recall Holmes. "Some talk" by Senator Pepper, Democrat, of Florida, in opposition to Gen. Holmes also was heard in the committee's executive session late yesterday, but Senator Pepper later said he knew of no move to recall Gen. Holmes, who left by plane for Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's headquarters in Europe after questioning by the committee Tuesday.

Just before yesterday's hearing ended, Secretary Steffinius was called for brief examination by Senator Chandler, Democrat, of Kentucky, who wanted to know the secretary's views about reports that it was planned to transfer many functions of the Foreign Economic Administration to the State Department.

Secretary Steffinius said there was no such plan. He explained that he believed such agencies as FEA should continue to be responsible for operations in the foreign field, while the State Department maintained the conduct of policy.

Steps taken during the past year have eliminated some confusion of authority that had existed in the field between various civilian agencies, he added. Now, the American Ambassador in each country is recognized as the senior United States official responsible for co-ordinating policies and this system is "working smoothly," the Secretary said.

Under sharp questioning by Senator Clark, Democrat, of Missouri, Mr. MacLeish asserted it was "unfair" to say that he believed democracy had failed, and explained that passages from his writings which Senator Clark interpreted as attacking capitalists actually were part of an attack on Communist writers.

## Lupe Velez Found Dead With Note Beside Body

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 14.—The coroner's office said today that Lupe Velez, Mexican motion picture actress, was found dead early today in her home in Beverly Hills. Coroner Frank Nance quoted Beverly Hills police as saying that the actress apparently took an overdose of sleeping powder.

Officers said they found a note beside the body, but they would not immediately disclose the contents.

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